

Date Received:

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2006 SMITH RIVER PRIVATE TRIP LAUNCH APPLICATION

Mail in this application or use it as a guide to apply online at fwp.mt.gov; or over the counter at any FWP regional or area office

DOB: ____/____/____ - ____ MM DD YYYY ALS #		Your ALS # is your date of birth , followed by a one or two digit number and is printed on the top of all FWP licenses. If the birth date portion of the number does not correspond to your date of birth, please contact an FWP office. If you do not already have an ALS#, you must provide your date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) and leave the # field blank. The system will assign you an ALS# when your application is processed.
NAME: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> RESIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> NONRESIDENT
ADDRESS: _____		
ZIP: _____		CITY: _____
STATE: _____		
TELEPHONE #: HOME () - _____		WORK () - _____
FWP Receives requests for mailing lists. Do you want your name included on lists provided to requestors.*Note: even if you choose NO , under state law the dept is required to allow those who wish to compile their own mailing list access to dept. records, including name, address, gender, residency and whether you were successful. <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES		Administrative Rules of Montana prohibit the submittal of more than one application by an individual. Applications are considered final and cannot be changed or withdrawn. <div style="text-align: center;"> X _____ SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT-WRITE-DO NOT PRINT (Faxed or photocopied signature not acceptable) </div>
The normal float season runs from mid April thru July 4. Typically, any other time before or after these dates the water levels are too low to float.		
1st choice ____/____/2006 MO/DAY/YR	2nd choice ____/____/2006 MO/DAY/YR	3rd choice ____/____/2006 MO/DAY/YR

All valid applications postmarked on or before **Wednesday FEBUARY 15** will be entered in the random drawing. Applications postmarked after February 15, 2006 will be returned to the applicants.

The fee for **Montana Residents is \$30.00** and **Non Residents fee is \$55.00** (both include a \$5.00 non-refundable application fee) and must accompany each application. The \$25.00/\$50.00 will be credited towards your float fee if you are a successful applicant. Unsuccessful applicants will receive a refund, unless you indicate below to donate your money to the Smith River Corridor Enhancement Account (CEA). The CEA is an account set up to use funds directly to protect the Smith River Corridor. If you are unsuccessful and choose to donate your money to the CEA, you can still use that money as a credit to float during the 2006 season if you end up floating with a permit holder.

If you are successful in obtaining a permit and fail to use or reschedule your permit credit during the 2006 float season, your fee will not be refunded. Successful permits are non-transferable and non-refundable.

If you drew a permit successfully last year and did not float and did not properly cancel you are not eligible to apply this year.

Each successful permit can have a maximum group size of 15 people including children.

****Please consider reducing your group size to 8 persons or less****

PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

MONTANA RESIDENTS - \$30.00 Personal checks accepted. **PAYABLE TO FWP** Check # _____ Amount _____

NONRESIDENTS- \$55.00 Personal checks NOT accepted. Payment cashier's check or money order only. **PAYABLE TO FWP.**

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CHECK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE YOUR LAUNCH FEE TO THE SMITH RIVER CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNT IF YOU ARE UNSUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING A LAUNCH DATE.

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:
FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS/SMITH RIVER DRAWING
1420 EAST 6TH AVENUE
PO BOX 8009
HELENA MT 59604-8009

DRAWING CONDUCTED LATE FEBRUARY-RESULTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN EARLY MARCH ON THE FWP WEBSITE AT: <http://fwp.mt.gov>
 SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE A PERMIT WITH FLOATERS PACKET. UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE A REFUND OR POSTCARD IF YOU DONATED YOUR FEE TO THE CEA. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE FWP SMITH RIVER STATE PARK (406) 454-5861 IF YOU DO NOT HEAR THE RESULTS FROM THE DRAWING BY MARCH 31, 2006.

2006 SMITH RIVER LAUNCH APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

READ THIS INFORMATION COMPLETELY BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION.

PHOTOCOPIES CAN BE MADE OF THIS APPLICATION. MAIL THE APPLICATION WITH FEE

ONLY. DO NOT RETURN THE ENTIRE PACKET. The Smith River State Park office in Great Falls office can be reached at (406) 454-5840 to answer any additional questions.

- **To apply for a private float permit for the Smith River**, fill out the attached application and return it to MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS, SMITH RIVER DRAWING, 1420 E 6 AVE, PO BOX 8009, HELENA MT 59604-8009. Or you may use this application as a guide and apply online at fwp.mt.gov or over the counter at any FWP regional or area office. All applications must be POSTMARKED or submitted on or before Wednesday, February 15, 2006.
- The total application fee for **Montana Residents is \$30.00** and the **Non-Residents fee is \$55.00**. These application fees must accompany each application. The fee (minus the \$5.00 non-refundable application fee) will be credited towards your float fee if you are a successful applicant. All unsuccessful applicants will receive a refund (minus the drawing fee), unless you decide to donate your fee to the Smith River Corridor Enhancement Account (CEA) via the check-off box provided on the application. The CEA is an account set up to provide long-term protection of the Smith River Corridor. If you are unsuccessful in the drawing and choose to donate your fee to the CEA, you still have the opportunity to use that money as a credit to float during the 2006 season if you ultimately are able to float the Smith River with another permit holder.
- To simplify the application process, the mail-in application fees are standardized at \$30 for Montana residents and \$55 for non-residents. The actual float fees, to be paid during the registration process at Camp Baker on the launch day are as follows;

Under 6 years (resident/non-resident)	FREE
6-12 years (resident/non-resident)	\$15
13 and older (resident)	\$25
13 and older (non-resident)	\$50
- You may submit only one application per person. **Submittal of more than one application per person will disqualify those applications from the drawing.** You may submit up to three different launch dates on your application in the priority of first, second and third choices. Only one date can be chosen via the drawing process and it is based on your order of choice and the availability of a launch for that specific date.
- The drawing will be conducted in late February 2006. Results will be mailed out early March. Successful applicants will receive a permit with a floater packet. Unsuccessful applicants will receive a refund (or post card if you chose to donate your fee to the CEA). **Please contact the FWP Smith River Program at (406) 454-5861 if you do not receive one of these notifications in the mail by March 31, 2006.** Results of the drawing will be made available early in March on the FWP Internet at: <http://fwp.mt.gov>
- Starting on Wednesday, March 22, 2006 you may call the Smith River Hotline at 406-454-5861 between 8:00 am and 12:00 noon to request any remaining launch dates that may be available.
- Permits are non-transferable and non-refundable. Permit holders must bring photo identification to the put-in. Permit holders must cancel their permit if they are not going to use their launch regardless of weather or water flows above 100 cfs. **Failure to cancel a permit at flows above 100cfs will result in losing next years privileges for the Smith River permit drawing.**

*****!! NOTE:** Please submit either of these two application fees only with your completed application;

Montana Residents (all ages) \$30 total application fee (Personal check accepted, payable to FWP)
Non-Residents (all ages) \$55 total application fee (Personal checks not accepted. Cashier's check or Money Order only, payable to FWP.

COMMON QUESTIONS:

Q. WHEN IS THE FLOAT SEASON? The float season varies widely depending on snow pack, rainfall and amount and timing of irrigation. The "typical" float season is from mid April thru July 4th with some floating occasionally in September. ***Be prepared for any and all types of weather especially rain and snow early in the float season.***

Q. IS THERE A LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF FLOATERS PER GROUP? Yes! The Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has set a limit of 9 groups launching each day. Of these launches, one group per day is allocated to outfitted groups except from the last week of May through the first week of July when 2 outfitted groups are permitted on Sundays and Wednesdays, the rest are private launches. There is a group size limit of 15 people. In order to help us continue to comply with our Smith River Management Plan standards for average group size, we ask that you voluntarily consider limiting your group size to **eight people or less.**

During the peak use period of June 10 through July 10, floaters are limited to no more than four nights of camping; also five private and/or outfitted cancellations during each week of the peak use period will not be reassigned to floaters during the peak period. Unused outfitted launches are available to all floaters one week before the launch date if all five cancellations per week between June 10 and July 10 have been fulfilled.

Q. WHAT KIND OF BOATS CAN BE USED ON THE SMITH? Non-motorized use only! Rafts are used by 70% of floaters and canoes used about 16% of the time. These are the most appropriate craft although drift boats, inflatable kayaks, and hard-sided kayaks are also taken down the river.

Q. HOW MANY DAYS DOES IT TAKE TO FLOAT THE SMITH? The float is 59 river miles from Camp Baker to Eden Bridge. A minimum of two nights and three full days should be planned for at normal water levels (350 +cfs) with most floaters taking 4 to 5 days. Factor in how much you plan to fish or hike, probable river flows, how many miles you want to cover in a day and what type of float experience you are seeking. Large drift boats and catarafts generally begin to have trouble at river flows below 350 CFS, rafts below 250 CFS and canoes below 150 CFS. This does not mean that different watercraft types will not have trouble floating at levels above those given. These are estimated levels listed to assist floaters in planning their trip. Remember this is a river that is always changing and you should adjust accordingly.

Q. WHAT ABOUT DECLARING CAMPSITES? All floaters are required to declare each night's campsite during the registration process at Camp Baker. Please contact the Ranger when you arrive at Camp Baker so you can check in.

Q. IS THERE WHITEWATER ON THE SMITH? There is one section of class II whitewater at mile 47 and a tricky area at mile 49. However, the Smith always moves quickly with sharp turns, rocky shallows and snags partially across the river. You should have at least intermediate boating and camping experience before floating the Smith.

Q. WHAT IS THE SMITH RIVER CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNT? 5% of all floater fees and \$50 from each outfitted client is placed in this account to "better manage and protect the river corridor". Funds from this account will be used for long-term protection strategies for the river corridor. You may select to donate your floater fee to this account by checking the box on the application form. If you are successful and receive a permit your money will be credited toward your float fee. But if you are unsuccessful the entire fee will then be donated toward the enhancement account if you check the box.

If you have any questions or would like any more information regarding the drawing, please call Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (406) 454-5840 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.